

## Interim Lead Scientist's Report

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**Summary:** This report provides an update on the Delta Independent Science Board and the 2010 Focused Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP), and notifies the Council of upcoming changes to the Interim Lead Scientist's schedule.

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### **Delta Independent Science Board**

Following the Council's June 24 approval of the 10 members of the Delta Independent Science Board (ISB), the Delta Science Program has taken the following steps to get the Delta ISB up and running.

- The Delta Science Program is working with the Delta ISB members to schedule their first meeting in late summer or early fall
- Delta ISB members' biographies and photos are posted on the Delta Science Program website:  
[http://www.deltacouncil.ca.gov/delta\\_science\\_program/isb/isb\\_members.html](http://www.deltacouncil.ca.gov/delta_science_program/isb/isb_members.html)

### **2010 Focused Proposal Solicitation Package**

- The Council approved the Delta Science Program's 2010 Focused Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP) in April 2010. The goal of the PSP is to invest in new scientific knowledge that will fundamentally advance the understanding of the complex environments and systems within the Council's jurisdiction to aid policy-makers and managers. A total of \$8 million from Prop 84 (with the potential for additional funding) will be used to fund research in four focused topic areas.
- The proposal submission closed on June 30, with a total of 49 proposals received requesting \$30,843,088 in funding.
- The Delta Science Program staff is currently performing an administrative review of proposals and working with the Interim Lead Scientist to select and assign external scientific reviewers for eligible proposals.
- Subsequent steps in the PSP process include:
  - Selecting and facilitating a final review panel to make funding recommendations (the Interim Lead Scientist will chair the final review panel).

- Making funding recommendations available for public comment.
- Presenting the final funding recommendations to the Council for review and approval by the end of the calendar year.

More detailed information on the 2010 PSP and its process can be accessed at:  
[http://www.deltacouncil.ca.gov/delta\\_science\\_program/pdf/psp/PSP\\_2010\\_complete\\_050510.pdf](http://www.deltacouncil.ca.gov/delta_science_program/pdf/psp/PSP_2010_complete_050510.pdf)

### **Upcoming Changes to the Interim Lead Scientist's Schedule**

Dr. Cliff Dahm was originally contracted to serve as the CALFED Lead Scientist from July 2008 through June 2010. The process of selecting the next lead scientist is part of the charge for the Delta Independent Science Board (Delta ISB) that was approved by the Council on June 24, 2010. The process of selecting a successor will be on the agenda for the initial meeting of the Delta ISB this summer or early fall. It is anticipated that the process of soliciting candidates, carrying out interviews, making a selection, obtaining Council approval, and negotiating with the selected candidate will last through summer of 2011.

Dr. Dahm has negotiated with his home university (The University of New Mexico) to split his time serving as the Interim Lead Scientist for the Delta Science Program and as a Professor of Biology through the upcoming school year. He returns part time to the University of New Mexico in late August, where he will teach a graduate level class on freshwater ecosystems on Fridays, mentor his graduate students, and engage in research.

As a result, the Interim Lead Scientist's schedule will become part time beginning the week of August 23. Dr. Dahm will perform his Interim Lead Scientist duties Mondays through Wednesdays in Sacramento. In addition, he will be present on Thursdays for Council meetings whenever the Council meets. This arrangement will provide for continuity in the role of lead scientist and allow the new lead scientist the opportunity to interface with the current lead scientist during the transition.

### **Contact**

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